

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 3 December 1992

## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Slow recovery continues in September quarter

All three independent measures of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) indicated that the economy continued to grow modestly in the September quarter 1992.

### Average of GDP measures — up 0.5 per cent

The trend estimate of GDP(A), the average of the three measures, rose 0.5 per cent in the September quarter. The increase in GDP(A) is attributable to rises in the trend estimates of all three components: GDP(I) up 0.4 per cent; GDP(E) up 0.3 per cent; and GDP(P) up 0.8 per cent (see below for details).

All the corresponding seasonally adjusted constant price estimates also rose in the September quarter. GDP(A) was up 0.5 per cent, due to increases of 0.3 per cent in GDP(I), 0.5 per cent in GDP(E), and 0.8 per cent in GDP(P).

#### MAIN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE-BASED NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AGGREGATES AT AVERAGE 1984-85 PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992 Percentage change in trend estimates

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Final consumption expenditure		
Private	0.5	3.0
Government	0.5	1.8
Gross fixed capital expenditure		
Private	-0.7	-4.7
Public	1.5	2.1
Gross national expenditure	0.8	3.4
Exports of goods and services	1.6	4.8
Imports of goods and services	3.5	11.0
Gross domestic product (I)	0.4	2.1
Gross farm product	2.8	0.6
Gross non-farm product (I)	0.3	2.1
Gross domestic product (E)	0.3	1.3

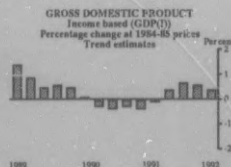
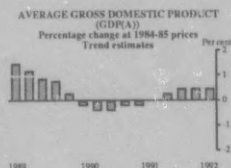
### Income-based GDP — up 0.4 per cent

### Expenditure-based GDP — up 0.3 per cent

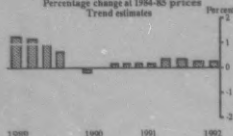
The latest increase in trend estimates of GDP(E) featured:

- ☐ slower growth in private final consumption expenditure;
- ☐ a continuation of the modest recovery in private investment on dwellings (up 1.9% in the quarter to a level 7.3% higher than in September quarter 1991);
- ☐ an increase in government final consumption expenditure; and;
- ☐ modest growth in public gross fixed capital expenditure.

Continued ...



GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT  
Expenditure based (GDP(E))  
Percentage change at 1984-85 prices  
Trend estimates



Partly offsetting these positive factors were further declines in private gross fixed capital expenditure on non-dwelling construction and equipment, and a negative contribution from net exports.

Private final consumption expenditure rose 0.5 per cent, the sixth successive quarterly increase. In the underlying seasonally adjusted series, the major increases in the September quarter were recorded for purchases of motor vehicles, fares and household durables, while the major decreases were recorded for: cigarettes and tobacco; clothing, fabrics and footwear; and operation of motor vehicles.

Trend private gross fixed capital expenditure declined in total for the thirteenth consecutive quarter. However, the rate of fall has slowed, with dwellings and real estate transfer expenses showing some growth over recent quarters. Capital expenditure on equipment declined at a reduced rate, but the rate of decline for capital expenditure on non-dwelling construction increased again. This component is now 37.8 per cent below its peak trend level recorded in September quarter 1989.

Trend public gross fixed capital expenditure increased in September quarter 1992, following increases in seasonally adjusted terms in both the June (mainly because of purchases of new aircraft by Qantas and Australian Airlines) and September quarters.

The trend estimates showed that private non-farm stocks continued to run down but at a reducing rate over recent quarters. Imports of goods and services increased more rapidly than exports in the September quarter, leading to a negative contribution to growth from net exports.

## Ratios

In seasonally adjusted terms, the stocks to sales ratio rose marginally from its record low of 0.502 in June quarter 1992 to 0.503 in September quarter, while the imports to sales ratio was unchanged from its June quarter level of 0.134. Australia's terms of trade fell 1.3 per cent from 99.7 in June quarter to 98.5 in September quarter.

## Income components

Seasonally adjusted wages, salaries and supplements increased by 1.3 per cent in September quarter, reflecting rises of about 0.7 per cent in both underlying average earnings and the number of wage and salary earners. Gross operating surplus of private corporate trading enterprises rose 2.3 per cent following a 5.0 per cent fall in June quarter.

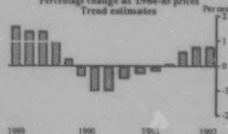
## Production-based GDP — trend up by 0.8 per cent

The trend estimates of production-based gross domestic product, GDP(P), increased by 0.8 per cent in the September quarter 1992 — reaffirming the turnaround in economic output since the September quarter 1991. Growth in the September quarter was widespread — with ten of the thirteen industry groups showing increases — nine of them recording increases for at least the last three quarters.

Details of the more noteworthy changes in industry trend estimates for September quarter 1992 are:

- ❑ Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting continued to show relatively strong growth (increasing by 3.9%) due mainly to improvements in the farm sector. In seasonally adjusted terms gross farm product grew by 6.2 per cent. Substantial rises in output were recorded for wheat and sugar, while a fall was recorded in other non-grain crops (largely due to cotton).
- ❑ Mining maintained a steady pattern of improvement over the past six quarters, increasing by 1.1 per cent in the September quarter.
- ❑ Manufacturing's rate of recovery remained relatively weak with increases of 0.2 per cent in each of the past three quarters. In seasonally adjusted terms, there was a small fall of 0.2 per cent in the September quarter.
- ❑ Construction increased by 1.0 per cent. The continued decline in private non-dwelling construction was more than offset by quite strong growth in all of the other construction activities (i.e. private dwellings, public construction and repairs and maintenance).
- ❑ Wholesale trade increased by 1.7 per cent, reflecting (as in the previous quarter) strong growth in sales by most sectors.
- ❑ Retail trade recorded a modest increase of 0.5 per cent — due mainly to motor vehicle purchases, which have increased by 9.5 per cent (in seasonally adjusted terms) since September quarter 1991.
- ❑ Transport and storage increased by 1.3 per cent. In seasonally adjusted terms, significant growth was reported in both road and rail transport industries, with increases of 2.8 per cent and 5.3 per cent, respectively.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT  
Production based (GDP(P))  
Percentage change at 1984-85 prices  
Trend estimates



GROSS PRODUCT, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992  
Trend estimates at average 1984-85 prices

	Gross product (\$ million)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Manufacturing	10,504	0.2	0.2
Community services	7,903	-0.2	0.0
Finance, property and business services	7,384	0.9	0.9
Mining	5,216	1.1	3.2
Wholesale	5,147	1.7	5.1
Retail	5,080	0.5	4.6
Construction	4,186	1.0	0.7
Transport and storage	3,397	1.3	4.5
Recreation, personal and other services	2,558	0.0	2.0
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2,515	3.9	3.2
Public administration and defence	2,395	-0.5	-0.3
Electricity, gas and water	2,448	0.3	0.7
Communication	2,055	1.5	6.5
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,901	1.7	6.3
Gross domestic product (GDP(P))	65,689	0.8	2.3

The trend estimate of labour productivity (constant price gross product per hour worked) in the market sector grew 1.7 per cent in the September quarter. This estimate is 3.6 per cent higher than twelve months earlier.

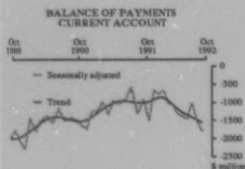
For further information, order the publications *Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure (5206.0)* and *Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked (5222.0)*, or contact Paul Curran on (06) 252 6708 or Alan Tryde on (06) 252 6801.

## Sharp fall in exports lifts October current account deficit

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for October 1992 rose \$286 million (19%) to \$1,800 million, the highest monthly deficit since the peak in January 1990.

The increase in the deficit was mainly caused by a turnaround of \$347 million (from a surplus to a deficit) in the merchandise trade balance. Merchandise exports fell 11 per cent and merchandise imports fell 4 per cent.

An increase of 1 per cent in the net income deficit and a 3 per cent decrease in the net unrequited transfers surplus also contributed to the rise in the overall deficit. Partly offsetting these results was a fall of \$79 million (or 27%) in the net services deficit.



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS  
CURRENT ACCOUNT  
\$ million

	September 1992		October 1992	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	-44	41	-515	-306
Net services	-437	-289	-311	-210
Balance on goods and services	-481	-248	-826	-516
Net income	-1,430	-1,421	-1,392	-1,434
Net unrequited transfers	175	155	181	150
Balance on current account	-1,736	-1,514	-2,037	-1,800

Details of the balance on merchandise trade in original terms are as follows:

Merchandise exports fell \$351 million, or 7 per cent, to \$4,832 million, mainly reflecting the \$291 million (or 8%) fall in non-rural exports.

The largest falls in this category were in:

- ☐ 'other' metals, mainly aluminium, iron and steel, down \$114 million or 23 per cent;
- ☐ gold, down \$85 million or 18 per cent, due mainly to decreased volumes of gold exports;
- ☐ transport equipment, down \$60 million or 38 per cent, due mainly to decreased exports of road vehicles; and
- ☐ 'other' manufactures, down \$43 million or 8 per cent.

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Partly offsetting these declines were increases in metal ores and minerals, up \$49 million or 7 per cent, and 'other' mineral fuels, up \$3 million or 1 per cent.

Rural exports fell \$60 million (or 4%) to \$1,362 million, with the largest falls recorded in:

- ☐ 'other' rural exports, down \$104 million or 20 per cent (due largely to decreased volumes of cotton); and
- ☐ wool, down \$10 million or 3 per cent.

These decreases were partly offset by rises in sugar, up \$32 million or 30 per cent; and cereals, up \$27 million or 18 per cent.

Merchandise imports rose \$120 million, or 2 per cent to \$5,347 million. The largest increases were in:

- ☐ machinery, up \$157 million or 11 per cent, due mainly to the importation of an offshore production platform 'jacket' (underwater substructure) for the Goodwyn gas field, as part of the North-West Shelf project, valued at \$101 million;
- ☐ road vehicles, up \$111 million or 25 per cent;
- ☐ 'other' manufactures, up \$37 million or 3 per cent; and
- ☐ food, beverages and tobacco, up \$37 million or 16 per cent.

The largest falls occurred in civil aircraft, down \$214 million (54%), and fuels, down \$37 million (13%).

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Marie Flint on (06) 252 6689 or Peter Morrow on (06) 252 5540.

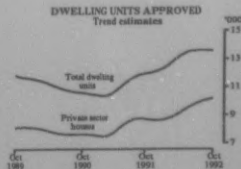
## Dwelling approvals trend flattens out

The level of total dwelling unit approvals has been relatively stable over the six months to October 1992, despite small month to month fluctuations. This has resulted in the provisional trend estimates for this series flattening out. The trend will remain relatively flat even if dwelling approvals were to rise or fall by up to 5 per cent in November (5% is the average monthly movement in the series over the last ten years).

The level of private sector house approvals has also been fluctuating in recent months but the provisional trend for this series is still showing growth, albeit quite slow growth. A further fall in private sector house approvals in November would also see the trend series level out.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved rose by 5.5 per cent in October 1992 following a 1.2 per cent fall in September. At the same time, private sector house approvals fell by 1.8 per cent following a 2.7 per cent rise in September.

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Total dwelling unit approvals (seasonally adjusted) rose in all States except Tasmania in October 1992. Growth was strong in Western Australia (20.1%) and moderate in South Australia (8.0%). The larger States all exhibited small growth. For the three months ended October 1992 total dwelling unit approvals rose in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, were steady in New South Wales and fell in Queensland, compared with the previous three months.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, OCTOBER 1992  
Percentage change

	Number	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses			
Original	10,700	0.3	8.2
Seasonally adjusted	9,991	-1.8	13.3
Trend	10,165	0.9	17.1
Total dwelling units			
Original	14,392	1.0	8.8
Seasonally adjusted	13,950	5.5	16.2
Trend	13,564	-0.1	13.6

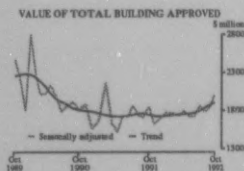
## Value of building approved

The provisional trend estimates for the value of total building approved are showing moderate growth to October 1992. The provisional trend for the value of new residential building approved continues to display slow growth to October 1992.

The provisional trend estimates for the value of non-residential building approved are available only to July 1992 and indicate that the series may have bottomed out following nearly three years of decline. However, this series is particularly volatile and can be influenced by the approval of one or two large projects in a particular month.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, OCTOBER 1992  
Percentage change

	\$ million	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building			
Original	1,153.5	-0.1	7.4
Seasonally adjusted	1,123.3	3.2	14.7
Trend	1,118.4	0.4	15.5
Total building			
Original	2,125.5	11.3	3.4
Seasonally adjusted	1,994.7	8.7	8.2
Trend	1,901.2	1.9	9.4



INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION  
Trend estimates at average 1984-85 prices



## Industrial production flat

The trend in industrial production for the September quarter 1992 continues the very slow rise of the two previous quarters, following seven quarters of decline. However, the seasonally adjusted estimate fell slightly (0.3%) in the latest quarter.

The 'industrial sector' covers mining, manufacturing, and utilities (electricity, gas and water), but is dominated by movements in the manufacturing industry.

The seasonally adjusted manufacturing production index recorded a slight fall (0.3%) between June and September quarters 1992. The trend series, with three consecutive quarters of very weak growth, suggests a turning point in the December quarter 1991 from an eight quarter slump.

Consistent trend growth over recent quarters has been shown by: transport equipment; non-metallic mineral products; chemical, petroleum and coal products; and food, beverages and tobacco. Consistent falls in trend have been recorded for: fabricated metal products; paper, printing and publishing; and miscellaneous manufacturing.

The seasonally adjusted index for the mining industry fell by 1.0 per cent in the September quarter following two successive rises. The trend has now been rising over the last six quarters.

The utilities sector recorded a moderate rise of 0.9 per cent in the September quarter 1992, but the trend has flattened out over recent quarters.

For further information, order the publication *Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia* (8125.0), or contact Mal Lawrie on (06) 252 7421.

## New vehicle figures still drifting

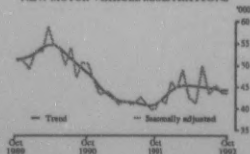
The October 1992 trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations showed no change from September. The trend continued to be flat with all month to month movements since February 1992 being less than 1.0 per cent.

The slight downward drift in that period applies fairly evenly to both passenger vehicles and other vehicles.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 0.3 per cent compared with September 1992.

In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for October 1992 fell by 6.7 per cent, from 47,653 vehicles in September 1992 to 44,453 in October. Numbers of passenger vehicles fell from 40,037 in September to 37,123 in October 1992; other vehicles also showed a decrease, from 7,616 vehicles in September to 7,330 vehicles in October.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS





Unadjusted registrations fell in most States, with only Victoria (up 10.3%) and the Northern Territory (up 21.1%) recording increases during the month.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

## Business stocks and manufacturers' sales remain steady

The value of stocks owned by private businesses at the end of September 1992 is marginally above the June 1992 estimate in seasonally adjusted 1984-85 terms and is the first increase in the series since the March quarter 1990.

However, stock levels in September 1992 were still 1.3 per cent lower than at the end of September 1991 and 5.5 per cent lower than at the end of September 1990.

STOCKS OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES, AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1992  
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices

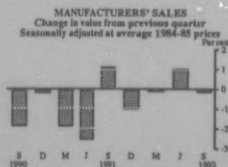
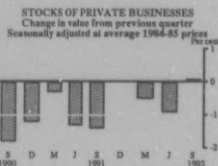
Industry	Stock level (\$ million)	Percentage change since	
		30 June 1992	30 Sept. 1991
Mining	2,663	3.3	-1.5
Manufacturing	15,549	-0.9	-2.5
Wholesale	11,958	0.3	-1.4
Retail	9,365	0.8	1.0
Other	350	-7.4	-10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,885</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

In seasonally adjusted 1984-85 prices, manufacturers' sales for the September quarter 1992 were marginally below those for the June quarter. Falls occurred in five of the twelve manufacturing sub-groups.

In 1984-85 prices, manufacturers' sales for the nine months ended September 1992, were 0.5 per cent lower than for the corresponding period in 1991. The largest increases were recorded in textiles (12.7%), wood, wood products and furniture (7.6%), and chemicals, petroleum and coal products (5.1%). Falls were recorded in fabricated metal products; paper, paper products, printing and publishing; and other machinery and equipment (down by 7.1%, 6.1% and 4.0% respectively).

Manufacturers' expected sales for 1992-93 are estimated to be \$148,667 million which is 3.3 per cent above the 1992-93 expectations reported in the June survey. If these expectations are realised, then actual sales for 1992-93 will be 7.5 per cent above those for 1991-92. Expected sales in current price terms, for the three months to December 1992, are estimated to be \$40,787 million and for the six months to June 1993, the estimate is \$71,828 million.

For further information, order the publication *Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Australia (5629.0)*, or contact Kevin Squair on (06) 252 5610.

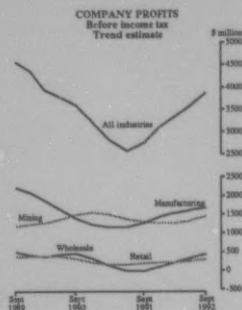


## Company profits continue to progress

The provisional trend estimate for company profits before income tax rose by 8 per cent to \$3,868 million in the September 1992 quarter. This was the fifth successive quarter of similar positive growth after the downturn in profits from June 1989 to June 1991.

The mining and manufacturing industries contributed 81 per cent of the recorded profit for the quarter.

The mining and wholesale trade industries contributed the most to the overall increase as shown below.



**COMPANY PROFITS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992**  
Trend estimate

Industry	Value (\$ million)	Contribution to growth (Per cent)
Mining	1,449	3
Manufacturing	1,678	2
Wholesale trade	438	3
Retail trade	298	1
Other selected industries	21	-1
<b>All industries</b>	<b>3,868</b>	<b>8</b>

For further information, order the publication *Company Profits, Australia* (5651.0), or contact Ross Upson on (06) 252 5617.

## First global view of education and training in Australia

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released a major new report which brings together information across all levels of education and training activities in Australia into a single comprehensive publication.

The 200-page report provides information on students and trainees, staff, institutions and resources used in education and training. Analytical text and summary and detailed tables highlight particular features, while references to historical data enable trends to be charted over time. Drawing together a wide range of ABS and other data, the report presents it in a way that is relevant to the present discussion of education and training issues in the community and government.

*Education and Training in Australia* was produced by the ABS Social and Labour Division's Education Statistics Research Unit, which was established in 1991 to research and analyse education and training data beyond that previously undertaken by the Bureau.

Professor Peter Karmel AC, CBE, a recognised authority on education issues, has welcomed the report and recommended it to policy-makers, administrators, planners, researchers and commentators involved in education and training.

For further information, order the publication *Education and Training in Australia* (4224.0) or contact your nearest ABS bookshop (see page 14 for details).

## Manufacturing production in October

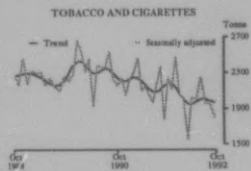
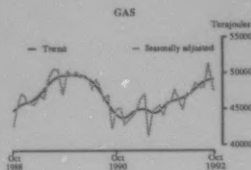
The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-one with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

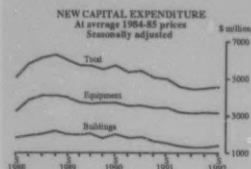
In the table below eleven items are showing an increase in trend over production levels twelve months previous. Clay bricks, gas and motor vehicles are all showing quite strong growth. While bloom and slab production is showing trend production up on October 1991, recent monthly data suggest a decline in production. All textile items are showing production below the levels of October 1991.

The comparisons below give an indication of the current trend direction and of production levels compared with twelve months ago, but to get a more complete picture, should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1992  
Trend estimates  
Percentage change

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Clay bricks	2.5	8.7
Gas available for issue through mains	0.2	8.6
Cars and station wagons	1.4	8.5
Sulphuric acid; oleum	1.3	7.5
Chocolate based confectionery	0.3	7.2
Flooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-2.0	4.8
Electric motors	0.7	4.6
Electricity	0.5	2.4
Portland cement	-1.9	2.3
Other confectionery	-1.5	2.2
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	0.5	1.1
Textile floor coverings	-0.3	-1.0
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	-1.7	-1.3
Beer	0.0	-3.5
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	0.9	-4.2
Cotton yarn	-0.9	-6.6
Wool yarn	1.0	-6.8
Domestic clothes washing machines	-1.6	-7.0
Television sets	-1.5	-7.1
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-0.1	-7.2
Cigarettes and tobacco	-1.1	-8.9





## Successive increases in investment

Total capital spending in the private sector rose by 1 per cent in the September quarter 1992, in seasonally adjusted constant price terms. This was the second successive increase following four quarters of decline.

The table below gives details of the changes in capital spending in current price terms.

NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992  
Seasonally adjusted at current prices  
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Type of asset		
Buildings and structures	7	-12
Equipment, plant and machinery	-1	-11
Total new capital expenditure	2	-11
Industry		
Finance	18	-25
Mining	7	6
Manufacturing	2	-6
Other	-8	-15

The latest business expectation of capital expenditure for 1992-93 shows little change from the actual result for 1991-92. However, if this expectation is under-realised to the same extent which applied to the expectation from the September quarter survey last year, then there would be a fall of 7 per cent over 1991-92.

For further information, order the publication *Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Preliminary (5625.0)*, or contact Jack Brzozowski on (06) 252 5611.

## Unemployment rates compared

In June 1992, Australia's unemployment rate of 11.1 per cent was the second highest amongst eight major Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Canada had the highest unemployment rate (11.6%) while France also recorded an unemployment rate above 10 per cent in June 1992. The lowest rates recorded in June 1992 were 2.2 per cent and 4.7 per cent in Japan and western Germany (see note to table) respectively.

These are among the findings of a United States Bureau of Labor Statistics study of standardised civilian labour force data in eight OECD countries for the last twenty years.

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Between the March quarter 1990 when unemployment generally started rising again, and the June quarter 1992, Australia experienced the largest rise in its unemployment rate (4.5 percentage points).

Sweden and Canada also experienced large increases in their unemployment rates (3.8 percentage points) although the rate for Sweden more than trebled from 1.3 per cent in the March quarter 1990 to 5.1 per cent in the June quarter 1992.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES  
Seasonally adjusted

Period	Australia	Canada	France	Germany*	Japan	Sweden	UK	USA
1989-90								
Mar qtr	6.2	7.5	9.2	5.4	2.1	1.3	6.7	5.2
Jun qtr	6.5	7.5	9.1	5.3	2.1	1.4	6.8	5.3
1990-91								
Sep qtr	7.2	8.3	9.1	5.1	2.1	1.5	6.9	5.6
Dec qtr	8.0	9.1	9.2	4.8	2.2	1.8	7.3	5.9
Mar qtr	8.7	10.2	9.4	4.6	2.1	2.1	8.2	6.5
Jun qtr	9.4	10.3	9.8	4.5	2.1	2.6	9.2	6.8
1991-92								
Sep qtr	9.9	10.4	10.0	4.6	2.2	2.8	10.0	6.8
Dec qtr	10.4	10.3	10.2	4.5	2.2	3.2	10.3	6.9
Mar qtr	10.5	10.7	10.0	4.4	2.1	3.6	9.6	7.2
Jun qtr	10.7	11.3	10.2	4.6	2.1	5.1	9.7	7.5
April	10.4	11.0	10.2	4.5	2.0	4.5	10.4	7.2
May	10.6	11.2	10.2	4.6	2.1	5.0	10.5	7.5
June	11.1	11.6	10.3	4.7	2.2	6.0	9.8	7.8

\*Refers to western Germany (Federal Republic of Germany before the unification of Germany).

Other findings from the twenty year study of unemployment rates in the eight selected countries include:

- ☐ Japan has maintained a very low unemployment rate over the last twenty years. The rate rose to 2.0 per cent in 1976 and has remained between 2 and 3 per cent since.
- ☐ Sweden also has had a relatively low unemployment rate over most of the last twenty years. The rate did not exceed 3.5 per cent until the March Quarter 1992 and for a substantial period between 1987 and 1991, the rate was between 1 and 2 per cent. The United States and western Germany are the only other countries where the unemployment rate has remained below 10 per cent since 1972.
- ☐ The highest annual average unemployment rate since 1972 was 11.8 per cent, recorded by Canada in 1983 and the United Kingdom in 1983 and 1984. The lowest rate recorded was 0.7 per cent in 1972 and 1973 by the then Federal Republic of Germany.
- ☐ Since the September Quarter 1990, western Germany's unemployment rate has fallen from 5.4 per cent to 4.6 per cent. The rate for all other countries in the study has risen over this period (apart from Japan's which has remained steady).

For further information about the data available from the Labour Force Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, contact Matthew Hardy on (06) 252 6525.

## Inquiries

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## All the week's releases: 25 November to 1 December

### General

Publications Advice, 27 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)  
Publications Advice, 1 December 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)  
Statistics Weekly, 26 November 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)  
Australian Economic Indicators, November 1992 (1350.0; \$26.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, November 1992 (1305.1; \$14.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., November 1992 (1303.2; \$10.50)  
Economic Indicators, Vic., November 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, November 1992 (1304.3; \$9.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, November 1992 (1305.5; \$10.50)  
Economic Indicators, WA, November 1992 (1307.5; \$5.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, November 1992 (1303.4; \$9.50)

### Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., September 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)  
Deaths, Qld, 1991 (3312.3; \$14.50)

### Social statistics

Apparent Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs, Aust., 1991-92,  
Preliminary (4315.0; \$10.50)  
Law and Order, Qld, 1990-91 (4502.3; \$17.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure,  
September Qtr 1992 (5206.0; \$21.00)  
Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours  
Worked, September Qtr 1992 (5222.0; \$12.00) — *final issue*  
Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk,  
September Qtr 1992 (5228.0; \$90.00)  
Balance of Payments, Aust., October 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)  
Balance of Payments, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (5302.0; \$21.00)  
International Investment Position, Aust., September Qtr 1992  
(5306.0; \$21.00)  
Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected  
Expenditure to June 1993, September Qtr 1992 Survey, Preliminary  
(5625.0; \$10.50)  
Private New Capital Expenditure to June 1993, Aust., Actual and  
Expected Expenditure, June Qtr 1992 (5626.0; \$10.50)  
Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales, September 1992 and Expected Sales to June  
1993, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (5629.0; \$10.50)  
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., October 1992 (5635.0; \$6.00)  
Company Profits, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (5651.0; \$10.50)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1992 (6203.0; \$16.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., October 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)  
Summary of Crops, NSW, 1990-91 (7330.1; \$27.00) — *final issue*

### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Aust., September Qtr 1992  
(8125.0; \$10.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust., October 1992, Preliminary  
(8301.0; \$10.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical  
Equipment, September 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, September  
1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and  
Poultry Food, September 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and  
Floor Coverings, September 1992 (8360.0; \$10.50)

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## Suggestions

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Rad Leovic  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

Building Approvals, Aust., October 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)  
Building Approvals, Vic., October 1992 (8731.2; \$10.50)  
Building Approvals, Qld, October 1992 (8731.3; \$10.50)  
Building Approvals, WA, October 1992 (8731.5; \$10.50)  
Building Approvals, SA, October 1992 (8731.4; \$10.50)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, September 1992 (8741.4; \$10.50)

## Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., October 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, October 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 15 December 1992

### December

- 2 Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, August 1992 (6302.0; \$10.50)
- 9 Retail Trade, Australia, October 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)  
Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, September 1992, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.50)
- 10 The Labour Force, Australia, November 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)

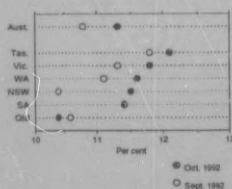
## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
1 December 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change to same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Sept. 92) (trend estimate)	2.5	2.0	6.5	-2.8	6.8	5.4	n.a.	4.6	3.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Oct. 92)†	-4.8	27.4	-18.1	4.4	-1.2	-6.0	21.1	-16.4	-0.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 92)*	15.2	8.0	7.5	13.1	50.5	6.3	-13.1	-22.2	16.2
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Oct. 92)*	0.1	-1.6	3.0	1.3	1.5	-1.0	1.8	4.4	0.5
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 92)	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
Seasonally adjusted



Statistics Weekly  
3 December 1992

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 1 December 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984–85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,600	0.6	1.6
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 92	5,610	5,717	1.8	-11.1
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to June 93	10,535	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Sept. 92	7,748	7,937	0.0	4.1
— 1984–85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	15,133	15,573	-0.3	1.7
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Oct. 92	44,453	43,305	-0.3	8.7
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Oct. 92	14,392	13,950	5.5	16.2
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	2,126	1,995	8.7	8.2
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	3,754.4	3,765.4	-0.3	-6.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	36,051	35,099	0.8	1.3
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	40,787	n.a.	n.a.	11.5
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	Oct. 92	7,724.9	7,714.5	0.3	0.5
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.5	11.3	0.5	1.1
Participation rate †	"	"	62.7	63.2	0.5	0.1
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index	1989–90 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984–85 = 100.0	Sept. 92	127.2	n.a.	0.1	7.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988–89 = 100.0	Sept. 92	114.0	n.a.	0.4	2.6
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 92	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (e)	\$	Aug. 92	585.70	n.a.	-0.3	3.2
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 92	5.85	n.a.	-0.10	-2.85
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.85	n.a.	-0.10	-0.95
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Oct. 92	4,832	4,683	-10.6	4.4
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,347	-4,989	-4.2	20.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-515	-306	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-826	-516	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-2,037	-1,800	18.9	99.1
Terms of trade (d)	1984–85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 92	n.a.	98.5	-1.2	-5.7
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 92	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	207,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
SUS	per \$A	Oct. 92	0.7158	n.a.	-0.9	-9.8
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	52.7	n.a.	0.0	-12.5
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 92	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Sept. 92	190	218	2.8	-0.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 2 December 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 14).

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